

The International Student Ambassadors present

# The ISAO Newscast

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### ISAO and UMKC News

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <a href="#">Home for the Holidays 2009</a>    | 1 |
| <a href="#">OPT Workshop on Blackboard</a>    | 2 |
| <a href="#">Student Health Resources</a>      | 2 |
| <a href="#">Traveling this Thanksgiving?</a>  | 3 |
| <a href="#">Oak Place</a>                     | 3 |
| <a href="#">Libraries Inside/Out</a>          | 4 |
| <a href="#">Fall Opera: Hänsel and Gretel</a> | 5 |

### Kansas City Events

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Plaza Lights</a>           | 5 |
| <a href="#">Chocolate, the Exhibit</a> | 5 |

## Home for the Holidays 2009

*Share a Traditional Holiday Meal with an American Family!*



The UMKC Alumni Association, together with ISAO, is once again offering the **Home for the Holidays** program where international students can connect with an American family and take part in a traditional holiday meal. The volunteering families are UMKC alumni, faculty, staff and community friends who are excited to share their traditions and delicious holiday dishes with you!

For most Americans, the holiday season begins with Thanksgiving on November 26th and ends with a big New Year's Eve celebration on December 31st. In between are a number of holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Yuletide, and Eid Al-Adha to name a few.

**How the Program Works:** You will be paired with an American family. The family will contact you to set up a convenient time and date for dinner (between the dates of November 26, 2009 and January 3, 2010). They will be able to provide transportation to and from their home, if you need it. Due to the ratio of international students to volunteering families, we recommend pairing up with a friend or we can pair you up with someone.

If you are interested in this program, please visit the ISAO website at <http://www.umkc.edu/isao/hh>. You can sign up by logging in with your user name and password, and then complete the required fields. Once you have completed the form, print the PDF file, sign the form, and bring it to the ISAO Welcome Center. **The last day to sign up is Friday, November 11, 2009!**

If you have questions, please contact Jessie at the International Student Affairs Office at 816-235-1113 or email at [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu).

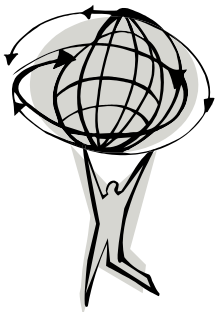
This is a great opportunity to meet some wonderful people and make lasting connections.

[Return to Page 1](#)

## OPT Workshop on Blackboard

This workshop is designed to provide detailed information on the Optional Practical Training (OPT) option available for F-1 international students upon completion of their degree. This authorization requires USCIS approval, so it is important that students apply for the authorization at the earliest possible date which is 90 days prior to your desired start date.

**Here is some pertinent information for those of you interested in Optional Practical Training (OPT):**



Optional Practical Training (OPT) is temporary employment authorization that gives F-1 students an opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to a practical work experience off campus. You may be entitled to up to 12 months of optional practical training per educational level.

Authorization for optional practical training is granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and can take between 60 to 90 days to obtain. It is important that you apply for the authorization at the earliest possible date which is 90 days prior to the desired start date.

The fee for the OPT application is \$340.

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. Have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis for one full academic year,
2. Currently be maintaining a full-time program of study and valid F-1 status, and
3. Intend to work in a job directly related to your major field of study.
4. Must attend the online workshop:
  - a. Log in your blackboard
  - b. Go to the International Student Affairs blackboard organization
  - c. Go to tegrity tab and listen carefully to the OPT workshop
  - d. After finishing the OPT workshop go to OPT session and take the OPT test
5. Drop off your OPT package at the ISAO (Students cannot email OPT application to ISAO)

Due to current flu outbreaks ISAO strongly recommends that students retain health insurance while on OPT. If you have any questions, please email the ISAO staff at [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu)



[Return to Page 1](#)

## Student Health Resources

UMKC Student Health and Wellness provides many great resources for students on tips for staying health during cold and flu season. They also have detailed information about the seasonal flu and H1N1 flu.

Visit their website at <http://web2.umkc.edu/chtc/health/pages/flu.html> for more information.

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Traveling this Thanksgiving?

If you are traveling outside the United States for Thanksgiving break, be sure that your visa is not expired and that you get a new I-94 card when you return to the United States at Customs and Border Patrol.



The travel endorsement date on page 3 of your I-20 or page 1 of your DS-2019 is valid for one year. If the travel endorsement date is past one year, be sure to have it signed by an ISAO advisor before you travel. Processing time may take up to 15 business days, so make sure to submit your request early. The travel endorsement is only for students who intend to visit their home country during the holiday. Students who need to go home temporarily, outside of the normal break time, and return after the start of the semester should not request a travel endorsement but instead meet with their advisor about the return process.

To submit your request, visit the International Student Affairs Office's website where you can print your travel endorsement submission form through the online services. Visit the website at <http://www.umkc.edu/isao/services>. You can then bring this form, along with your I-20 or DS-2019, to the International Student Affairs Office.

## Oak Place

[Return to Page 1](#)



Are you searching for a place to live or wishing for a new place that has all the amenities you could want? Look no further than UMKC's Oak Place Apartments, specifically designed for students and conveniently located on Oak Street.

The Oak Place Apartments feature brand-new, fully-furnished rooms; a kitchen with microwave, dishwasher, stove, and refrigerator; high-speed Internet, full size washer and dryer; a secured covered parking garage; a fitness center; and much more.

For more information, check out Oak place's E-Brochure at: [http://www.oakplace.info/RESOURCES/CMSFiles/File/E-Brochures/Oak\\_Brochure\\_R3.pdf](http://www.oakplace.info/RESOURCES/CMSFiles/File/E-Brochures/Oak_Brochure_R3.pdf)

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Libraries Inside/Out

Picture from <http://library.umkc.edu/node/1681>



### Librarian Lunchtime Lecture Series

## Libraries **INSIDE OUT**

Commemorating Miller Nichols Library's 40 years of service to UMKC and Kansas City, UMKC Libraries' librarians take you behind the scenes to share how *today's* libraries are being transformed from dark, stuffy book vaults into *light and lively (and on-line) learning communities*.

**November 17, 12:30pm**

Special Collections:

The Future of the Past

*Stuart Hinds, Head of Special Collections*

How will the artifacts of yesterday be preserved for tomorrow?

How will we save today what will be historical in the future?

Join Stuart as he discusses the unique role UMKC's LaBudde Special Collections and Marr Sound Archives serve in saving and make accessible Kansas City's precious and unique cultural treasures.

This session will be held in Miller Nichols Library Room 121 and last approximately 50 minutes.

Bring a lunch or pick it up from Café a la Carte on the library's first floor.



Questions? Call: 816-235-5828 or email Mark Mattison at [mattisonm@umkc.edu](mailto:mattisonm@umkc.edu)

Seating is limited RSVP to: [fol@umkc.edu](mailto:fol@umkc.edu)

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Fall Opera:

# Humperdinck's Hänsel und Gretel

Content from <http://conservatory.umkc.edu/calendarofevents.aspx>

UMKC Opera Theatre performs Humperdinck's magical work with the UMKC ballet and a children's chorus from surrounding schools. The opera is sung in German.

**When:** November 19, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** UMKC, White Recital Hall

**Cost:** Free to UMKC students with UMKC student ID

For more information, visit: <http://conservatory.umkc.edu/calendarofevents.aspx>

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Plaza Lights

Content from <http://kansascity.about.com/od/annualevents/p/PlazaLights.htm>  
 Picture from <http://www.superiorvolvo.com/blog/2008/11/kcp-plaza-lightsthanksgiving-evening.html>



The Plaza Lights are one of Kansas City's most favorite traditions and is the official kick off of the holiday season. The famous ceremony, which began as 16 lights hung over a doorway, now includes over 80 miles of lights with 280,000 multi-colored bulbs outlining and illuminating the buildings and towers of the Country Club Plaza. The first official Plaza Lighting ceremony began in 1930, and now draws over 500,000 people to the Country Club Plaza on **Thanksgiving Night**. The lights turn on every evening at 5 p.m. and continue until January 11, 2009.

- When:** November 26, 2009
- Where:** South of 47th and Wyandotte, Kansas City (near the Cheesecake Factory and Restoration Hardware)
- Cost:** Free

[Return to Page 1](#)

## Chocolate, the Exhibition

Content from <http://www.chocolate.unionstation.org/individual.html>

Hot fudge. Candy bars. For thousands of years humans have been fascinated with the delicious phenomenon that we call "chocolate." Travel the journey through history and unwrap the complete story behind the tasty treat we all crave. Engage your senses and discover facts about this sumptuous sweet you have never thought about before. Explore the plant, the products, and the culture of chocolate through the lenses of science, history, and popular culture.

Chocolate is a sweet experience for all ages!

- When:** October 16, 2009 – January 3, 2010
- Where:** Union Station, Kansas City
- Cost:** Adults (age 13 and up) \$9.50 per person

For more information visit: <http://www.chocolate.unionstation.org/individual.html>

### ISAO

5235 Rockhill Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64110  
**Phone:** 816 235 1113  
**Email:** [isao@umkc.edu](mailto:isao@umkc.edu)

### Student Editors

International Student  
 Ambassadors

### Email

[umkcisap@umkc.edu](mailto:umkcisap@umkc.edu)

### Staff Advisor

Jenny Pawlowski



We're on the Web!

<http://www.umkc.edu/isao/ambassadors.htm>